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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 092655

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH HONDURAN PRESIDENT ZELAYA

1. Classified By: Assistant Secretary Thomas A. Shannon.
Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

2. September 3, 2009, 1230-1330, Washington, DC.

3. Participants:

U.S.

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The Secretary

Undersecretary for Global Affairs Maria Otero

PA Assistant Secretary Phillip J. Crowley

WHA Assistant Secretary Thomas A. Shannon

WHA Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Craig Kelly

Ambassador Hugo Llorens

NSC Senior Director for WHA Dan Restrepo

WHA/CEN Gabriela Zambrano (Notetaker)

Honduras

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President Manuel "Mel" Zelaya

Charge d'Affairs Enrique Reina

Hector Zelaya, son of President Zelaya

Alejandro Sibrian, notetaker

4. (C) SUMMARY: The Secretary stressed the United States' commitment to the peaceful restoration of the democratic order in Honduras. She urged President Zelaya to sign the San Jose Accord now, refrain from provocative statements and actions, and announce publicly his intention to comply with its terms. President Zelaya promised to sign the San Jose Accord but insisted the de facto regime needs to sign the Accord simultaneously. End Summary.

Termination of Assistance and other Measures

5. (C) Secretary Clinton read to President Zelaya the Department's September 3 press statement announcing the United States is terminating a broad range of assistance to the government of Honduras as a result of the June 28 coup d'etat. The statement also mentioned the United States is in the process of revoking visas of individual members and supporters of the de facto regime and that the United States, at this moment, would not be able to support the outcome of the scheduled November 29 elections. She reiterated the decisions contained in the announcement were made to put pressure on the de facto regime to sign the San Jose Accord.

Signing the San Jose Accord

6. (C) Secretary Clinton stated the United States is committed to the peaceful restoration of the democratic order

in Honduras. She asked President Zelaya to refrain from any provocative statements and actions that could hinder approval and implementation of the San Jose Accord. She asked President Zelaya to sign the Accord now to put pressure on the de facto regime. She conveyed the message that Zelaya's opponents believe he would not abide by the Accord. She asked Zelaya to announce publicly that he would leave at the end of his term on January 27, that he would support any type of verification system that would guarantee the implementation of the San Jose Accord, and that elections would be held as scheduled on November 29.

17. (C) President Zelaya reiterated his support for the San Jose Accord and his willingness to sign it. Zelaya said signing the Accord provides generous concessions to the de facto regime, but expressed willingness to return as a symbolic figure of democracy. Zelaya stated the San Jose Accord should be signed in Tegucigalpa rather than in San Jose. Zelaya stated he would send a letter promising Secretary Clinton that he would sign the accord as soon as Micheletti signs. Zelaya still believes the de facto regime will never agree to sign it.

Persecution against Zelaya's supporters

18. (C) Zelaya stated the Micheletti regime is persecuting

STATE 00092655 002 OF 002

anybody who does not support the coup. Zelaya stated that 24 arrest warrants exist against him alleging his involvement in drugs, terrorism, and other crimes in Honduras. Zelaya stated all of them are politically motivated because they were issued after the coup.

19. (C) Zelaya mentioned that Charge Enrique Reina has an arrest warrant against him. Zelaya stated his cabinet members fear they might get arrested at an airport.

Human-rights situation deteriorating in Honduras

110. (C) Zelaya stated that after the coup, hundreds of people have been murdered in undetermined circumstances, his supporters have been detained, and women have been raped. He said he has asked his supporters, in the meantime, not to attack the military.

111. (C) Secretary Clinton said the Department of State has conveyed reports of alleged arbitrary arrests and beatings of protesters by the de facto regime to the office of the Attorney General, the human rights Ombudsman, and individuals close to the de facto regime. She added that the United States will condemn violence by anyone and told Zelaya his supporters must refrain from any act of violence.

President Zelaya's trip to South America

112. (C) President Zelaya said the presidents of Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru believe that if Zelaya does not return to Honduras by September, then he should not return to Honduras at all. President Zelaya stated he has not made a decision yet on this advice.

President Zelaya asked for more measures against the regime

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113. (C) President Zelaya asked that the Department of State

determine the June 28 coup was a military coup, he urged that the Department of Treasury take action to freeze Honduran foreign exchange reserves in the United States (which he said amounted to 1.5 billion dollars) and he asked that Honduras be removed from CAFTA. He also asked if the United States could make a statement condemning the deterioration of human rights in Honduras.

¶14. (C) Secretary Clinton stated the United States would examine these issues but not specify the eventual U.S. position.

Agreement for Charge d'Affaires Enrique Reina

¶15. (C) Zelaya asked the Department of State to expedite the credentialing process for Charge Reina. He stated Reina would have credibility with Congress if he were recognized as an ambassador. The Secretary said she would look into this matter.

Road Ahead

¶16. (C) Secretary Clinton said the United States decided not to recall Ambassador Llorens because he is working in a constructive way to reach out to all political actors to restore the democratic order in Honduras. The Secretary reiterated to President Zelaya that the United States would continue to support the peaceful restoration of democratic order in Honduras. She said the United States is committed to President Zelaya's return in a peaceful way that would not cause any harm or suffering to the Honduran people.
CLINTON